## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

:

Youji NOTOYA et al.

Serial No. NEW

Mail Stop: PCT

Filed January 3, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 2005\_2041A

ENCODING MODE DECIDING APPARATUS, IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS, ENCODING MODE DECIDING METHOD, AND ENCODING MODE DECIDING PROGRAM [Corresponding to PCT/JP2004/010903 Filed July 23, 2004]

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.